

**CONFIDENTIAL**

29 February 1968

Mr. Bannerman via Mr. Coffey

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At the noon meeting Monday I mentioned that National Security Action Memorandum No. 368 dealing with intelligence information handling has been received by the Director. I understand that the Deputy Director for Intelligence is developing a proposal for the Director's response and that John Bross has the action for the community. DDI people feel the guidance about who is supposed to do what is not very clear but they are in the process of developing a paper which they will offer for concurrence by other Directorates before sending it forward.

The NSAM is in response to recommendations of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board transmitted to the President by Clark Clifford July 20, 1967.

You may recall that Mr. Rostow sent the Clifford letter to the Director last summer. The Director responded by letter dated 11 August in which he expressed concern and reservations about several of the PFIAB recommendations. Speculation in the Agency now is that NSAM 368 results from the dilemma which confronts the White House because they have the PFIAB recommendations and the Director's letter with conflicting views and they have asked the Director, therefore, to produce a plan for dealing with the intelligence information handling problems as a way out.

You may also recall that in September USIB was presented with a proposal to create an information handling committee to supersede CODIB. Consideration of this proposal was deferred pending action by the White House on the Presidential directive proposed by PFIAB in July.

More recently there has been a proposal for USIB consideration that a community management structure be created for the administration and further development of COINS. This proposal was scheduled for USIB consideration on 15 February but was removed from the agenda because of objections raised within the Agency two days before the USIB meeting.

Response to the NSAM may now offer some opportunity for getting this confusion sorted out.

\*NSC "No Objection to Release as Sanitized", Instructions on File\*

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None of these proposals has a direct impact on the information handling of the Support Directorate. Depending upon what action is taken about them there may be some requirement for space, communications, and security support. If computer support from OCS is required and they are not given additional resources to do it there will probably be an impact upon their ability to support us. Because there is no direct impact upon the Support Directorate comments from us are gratuitous, but DDI will be glad to have any we want to offer. If this were our problem, I would be seriously concerned with its implications.

The Director is to "improve information handling in the community...." The PFIAB recommendations are clearly enamored with the idea of using the computer to solve the problems of the present system by automating it. There is concern with the "information explosion." A great deal is made of the numbers of pages of reports produced and the numbers of copies of each page distributed. The criticism is that modern methods and technologies for information handling haven't been exploited to deal with these voluminous reports. There is an urgency attached to the installation of computer systems to handle this information. I would contend that this concept is fundamentally wrong. Computers are not going to solve these problems. People are. People are not going to solve them, however, if they don't define the problems first. Is the problem to simplify the duplication and dissemination of voluminous reports? Is the problem that too many reports are being produced; that they are being distributed to the wrong people at the wrong time; that they are not being distributed to the right people; that they are being distributed to the right people in addition to a lot of the wrong people? Is the problem that reports are not responsive to requirements; that requirements are ill defined or unrealistic?

Any plan the Agency produces should be directed first of all toward defining the problem or problems in some order of magnitude which offers some hope that they can be dealt with realistically. This could easily take six months to a year. To deal with these problems adequately will probably require a staff of a hundred and fifty to two hundred people.

Essentially the problems are quite similar to those confronting the Support Directorate except that the magnitude of the problems of the intelligence community is greater by several orders. The approach to their solution ought to be quite similar in many ways to the approach we have taken here.

I will be glad to draft a memorandum for you to send to the DDI offering some of these observations if you think that would be appropriate.

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Attached are: 3 copies of NSAM 368 and Clifford letter of 20 July; and 1 copy of DCI letter of 11 August. Copies of the Information Handling Committee and COINS proposals are available if you would like to see them.

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RHW

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